

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): A method of promoting intellectual property over the Internet communications network, the method comprising:

providing a host computer station connected to said network and having at least one database accessible over said network, the at least one database including a plurality of intellectual property items and a description of each intellectual property item;

accessing said database through said network and selecting one of said intellectual property items by plural consumer computer stations connected to said network;

accessing the description associated with said selected intellectual property item from said consumer stations;

sending survey information of said selected intellectual property item from said consumer stations to said host station by way of said network, said survey information being based at least in part on the description of said selected intellectual property item, said survey information including information reflective of consumers' desires to purchase said selected intellectual property item;

summing said survey information from said consumer stations for said selected intellectual property item; and

accessing said survey information from an industry computer station connected to said network to thereby determine a level of consumer interest in said selected intellectual property item based on said survey information.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 43, including the step of:

providing an incentive to a consumer at any one of said consumer stations for sending said survey information.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 44, wherein:

said incentive is chosen from a group consisting of currency, coupons, discounts, products, and services.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 43, including the step of:

searching a desired grouping of intellectual property items having at least one common feature prior to selecting said selected intellectual property item wherein said at least one common feature is one of a Standard Industrial Classification code and a North American Industry Classification System code.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 43, and further comprising:

sending from a customer computer station connected to said network to said host station intellectual property data representative of a customer intellectual property item, said intellectual property data being included in said at least one database and comprising at least a description of said customer intellectual property item; and

displaying at least said description of said customer intellectual property item at said host station for view by a consumer at one of said consumer stations and by one or more of said industry stations upon selection of said customer intellectual property item.

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 47, wherein:

said host station includes a site on said network and each of said consumer stations, each of said industry stations, and said customer station includes a processor-based workstation remote from said site on said network and connectable thereto for accessing said at least one database.

Claim 49 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 48, wherein:

said survey information is accessible at said site by way of said network by only said customer station and said industry stations, respectively.

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 48, wherein:

said at least one database further comprises at least one confidential information item for said selected intellectual property item.

Claim 51 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 50, wherein:

said at least one confidential information item is viewable only by said customer station and by said industry stations, respectively.

Claim 52 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 43, wherein:

said description of each intellectual property item includes at least one general information item viewable by at least said consumer stations and at least one confidential information item viewable by said industry stations but not by said consumer stations.

Claim 53 (Withdrawn): The method of promoting intellectual property according to claim 52, including the step of:

selectively releasing said at least one confidential information item at said host station for view by said consumer stations.

Claims 54-55 (Canceled).

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The computer implemented system of claim 65, wherein:

said first computer program module searches a desired grouping of inventions having at least one common feature prior to selecting said at least one invention.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): The computer implemented system according to claim 56, wherein:

said at least one common feature is one of a Standard Industrial Classification code and a North American Industry Classification System code.

Claims 58-59 (Canceled).

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): The computer implemented system according to claim 65, wherein:

said at least one ~~data base~~ database further includes at least one confidential information description of said inventions, respectively.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The computer implemented system according to claim 60, including:

a third computer program module operable to provide said one confidential information description to be viewable only by selected ones of said industry computer stations.

Claims 62-64 (Canceled).

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): A computer implemented system promoting ~~existing~~ inventions over the Internet communications network, the system comprising:

a host computer station constituting an Internet domain site connected to said communications network and having a ~~data-base~~ database with stored descriptions of respective inventions and their distinctive features;

a publicly accessible interface in communication with the host computer station and in communication with plural consumer computer stations ~~operatively and interactively connected over via the communications network with said host computer;~~

a first computer program module at said host computer station selecting at least one of said inventions by reference to the stored invention descriptions and distinctive features for viewing at said plural consumer computer stations and thereafter ~~providing~~ receiving feedback data relating to a consumer desirability of the selected inventions, wherein said first computer program module includes a survey module eliciting said feedback data from multiple users of the consumer computer stations by posing one or more questions to said users regarding said consumer desirability of products incorporating the selected inventions and consolidating their responses;

a second computer program module ~~forwarding~~ receiving said consolidated responses ~~[[to]]~~ at said host computer station to provide an information summary of the consumer desirability for the respective selected inventions;

a restricted access interface in communication with the host computer station and in communication with plural industry computer stations ~~operatively and interactively connected over via the communications network with said host computer and,~~ wherein users of said industry computer stations are specifically identified by said host computer station as authorized to access said information summary; and

a computer program module transferring said information summary to said authorized industry computer stations but not to said consumer computer stations.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): A computer implemented system for obtaining informed consumer opinions over a communications network regarding the commercial attractiveness of ~~existing~~ customer inventions, comprising:

a host computer station connected to said communications network and having a ~~data base~~ database storing identification of customers and descriptions of respective inventions of said customers, including distinctive features of said inventions;

a publicly accessible interface in communication with the host computer station and in communication with plural customer computer stations ~~operatively and interactively connected over via the communications network with said host computer station,~~ the users of said customer computer stations being customers who own respective proprietary interests in said inventions;

the publicly accessible interface being in communication with the host computer station and in communication with plural consumer computer stations ~~operatively and interactively connected over via the communications network with said host computer station,~~ the users of said consumer computer stations being consumers who constitute potential purchasers of products incorporating said inventions;

a first computer program module enabling ~~each of said customers to transmit their~~ respective customer identifications and descriptions of their inventions, including the distinctive features of said inventions, from each of said customers to be received and stored in said data base database;

a second computer program module (i) enabling access by said consumers at said plural consumer computer stations to said inventions by reference to the stored invention description, (ii) thereafter ~~providing~~ receiving feedback data relating to a commercial attractiveness of products incorporating the selected inventions, said second computer program module including a survey module eliciting said feedback data from multiple ones of the consumer computer stations by posing one or more questions regarding said commercial attractiveness of products incorporating the selected inventions and responding to answers thereto constituting such feedback data, and (iii) thereafter consolidating said answers to provide respective information summaries regarding the commercial attractiveness of the selected inventions; ~~and~~

a third computer program module ~~forwarding~~ receiving said information summaries [[to]] at said host computer station for storage in ~~a data base~~ the database;

a restricted access interface in communication with the host computer station and in communication with plural industry computer stations via the communications network, users of said industry computer stations being involved with commercial transactions regarding said inventions, wherein the users of said industry computer stations are specifically identified by said host computer station as authorized to access said information summaries; and

a fourth computer program module transferring said information summaries to said industry computer stations but not to said consumer computer stations.

Claim 67 (Canceled).

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): The computer implemented system of Claim 66 in which said first computer program module additionally enables the storage in said ~~data-base~~ database of information pertaining to the legal protection status of said inventions.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended): A computer implemented system promoting ~~existing~~ inventions over the Internet communications network, the system comprising:

a host computer station connected to said communications network and having a ~~data base~~ database with stored invention information, including confidential invention information and non-confidential invention information;

a restricted access interface in communication with the host computer station and in communication with at least one industry computer station ~~operatively connected over~~ via the communications network ~~with said host computer~~;

a computer program enrollment module enrolling an industry representative user of said industry computer station as an industry representative wishing to access the confidential invention information, wherein said enrollment module conditions such access upon the industry representative executing a confidentiality agreement regarding the confidential invention information; and

a computer program invention disclosure module selectively granting the industry representative user access to said confidential invention information upon execution by the industry representative user of the confidentiality agreement but not to other users.